TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

BELGIUM

(Royaume de Belgique)

North Sea
Zierikzee
THE NETHERLANDS
Goch
Wesel
Westkapelle
Roosendaal
A2
Son
Duisburg
Middelburg
Borssele
Tilburg
Krefeld
Lintorf
Terneuzen
Eindhoven
A67
Weert
Oostende
Brugge
Hoek
Antwerp
Mol
Düsseldorf
Zons
Maaseik
Dunkerque
Gent
Echt
Calais
Landuit
Genk
Cologne
Bierne
Perk
Hasselt
FLEMISH REGION
Maastricht
Buir
NORD-PAS-DE-CALAIS
Neerlinter
Bilzen
Bonn
Menen
Tourcoing
Brussels
Waasin
Aachen
Halle
Liège
Tournai
Braine-l'Alleud
Kall
Montreuil-sur-Mer
Lille
Essars
Andenne
Verviers
Lens
Mons
Soignies
A23
Saint-Vith
Crécy-en-Ponthieu
N1
Arras
Bry
Charleroi
Namur
A26
A27
Lesve
Insul
E19
Vielsalm
Solesmes
Fraire
BELGIUM
Faid
Abbeville
A1
Prüm
Cambrai
La Capelle-en-Thiérache
WALLOON
PICARDIE
FRANCE
Waxweiler
Maissin
Burg
Amiens
Oisy
Bastogne
RHEINLAND-PFALZ
Péronne
St.-Quentin
Hirson
Revin
REGION
Aumale
N2
Sugny
Chiny
LUX.
Grandvilliers
Jussy
Ham
Charleville-Mézières
Vrigne-aux-Bois
Luxembourg
Konz
Kell
Montdidier
La Fère
Laon
Montmedy
Zerf
Perl
Litz
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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Kingdom of Belgium

Capital: Brussels

Population: 10, 182,034 (est)

Type of government: Constitutional Mo

Head of government: PM Jean-Luc Deha

Official language(s) Flemish, French

Economy: Socialist- capitalist

Religions: Roman Catholic (75%), Protes

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None

International Airport: Brussels

Flights from Frankfurt: Lufthansa, Sabena Airlines

Other methods of arrival: Ship/Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: 27 Boulevard du Regent, Brussels. Tel: 32-2-508-2650; FAX: 32-2-508-2153 E-mail

Transportation: Public transportation: Good.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Good.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Good. Rural roads are less likely to night.

Availability of roadside assistance: Good. Roadside assistance and information on road conditions is available in English from Touring Assistance at tel. (070) 344-777, which is a free call within Belgium. Belgian Police will also provide

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: Military personnel on leave require ID card and leave orders.
Civilian personnel (including dependents) require passports. A visa is not required for tourist or business stays up to three months out of a 180-day period (please note that the three month period counts for all of the Schengen territory countries - Belgium, Luxembourg, France, The Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Portugal). A visa is required if staying more than three months for tourism or temporary business. Local authorities may request identification cards and immunization records. Personnel entering from an epidemic area may be quarantined.

Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required

Duty-free entry for used personal effects.

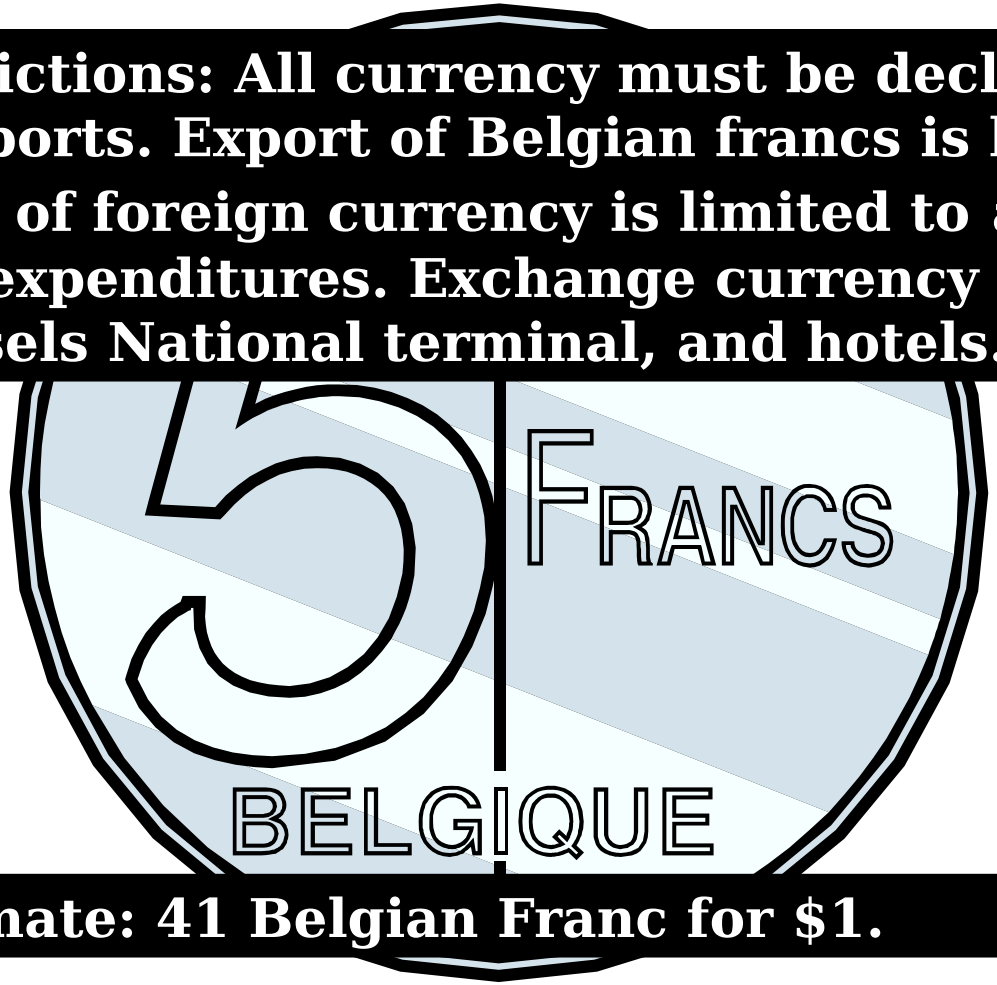
HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Photographing of canals, bridges, and military installations is restricted. All persons not staying in hotels must register with local "police etrangers" within eight days of arrival; this registration is automatically performed by hotels for hotel guests. Tourist facilities are widely available. U.S. citizens who are considered to have acquired Belgian citizenship may be subject while in Belgium to certain aspects of Belgian law, such as mandatory voting. Those who might be affected can inquire at a Belgian embassy or consulate regarding their status. In some instances, dual nationality may hamper U.S. Government efforts to provide protection abroad.

USDAO Brussels duty hours are 0900-1800, Mon-Fri.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: All currency must be declared. There is no limit on imports. Export of Belgian francs is limited to 50,000. Export of foreign currency is limited to amount imported less expenditures. Exchange currency at entry airports, Brussels National terminal, and hotels.



Rate: Approximate: 41 Belgian Franc for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, cold injuries, and industrial pollution.

Availability of medical services: Good. Consult Amembassy personnel for emergency medical service information. Medical facilities are widely available in Belgium.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Belgium.

Status of hospitals: Good.

Health Precautions: None.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B (recommended), TB (recommended) MMR (recommended) and tetanus-disptheria boosters (recommended). Normally, US immunization records certifying waiver to specific inoculations based on sensitivity are acceptable.

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance: Required for all military personnel traveling to Belgium. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through G3/S3 channels.
Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer or equivalent.

Belgian highways are generally well built and maintained with extensive lighting systems, but rain and fog often reduce visibility. Belgian rules for right-of-way differ from those in the U.S., and new drivers should thoroughly understand these rules before driving in Belgium. The maximum speed limit on Belgian highways is 120 kilometers (72 miles) per hour, but it is posted only at Belgium's borders and on roads leaving major airports. Claims of ignorance may not prevent a significant fine for speeding, which can also lead to the vehicle being impounded if the driver is unable to pay the fine on the spot in Belgian francs. Belgian police also conduct breath analyzer checks for alcohol use, particularly at night

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Belgium remains a relatively safe country, and anti-American sentiment is rare. Visitors should take reasonable precautions because street thefts, purse snatching, and pickpocketing are occurring more frequently. In Brussels, pickpocketing and purse snatching are prevalent in the metro system (subway, bus, and tram), and at Brussels' three major train stations, the North Station (Noordstation or Gare du Nord), the Central Station (Centraal Station or Gare Central) and especially at the South Station (Zuidstation or Gare du Midi). Travelers should never leave valuables unattended in vehicles, and should keep car doors locked when driving. Travelers should leave expensive jewelry, financial records, address books, and other personal effects at home or stored in a safe place during their visit. Travelers should carry only a minimum amount of cash, credit cards and personal identification. Belgian law requires that everyone carry some form of official identification at all times, which

Belgium is strict on: Drugs. In Belgium, the penalties for possession, use, or dealing in illegal drugs are strict, and

WEATHER

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Civilian clothing is recommended except on official visits to military installations. Heavyweight clothing is recommended for all year. Rain wear is essential.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

BELGIUM